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(51) Int.Cl.⁶ A61K 38/17
(54) **NOUVEL INHIBITEUR DU FACTEUR D'ACTIVATION DES
PLAQUETTES**
(54) **A NOVEL INHIBITOR OF PLATELET ACTIVATING FACTOR**

(57) Composition anti-inflammatoire. La composition comporte une protéine activatrice GM₂ ou un peptide dérivé de la protéine activatrice qui est capable d'inhiber le facteur d'activation des plaquettes (PAF). La composition est utile dans le traitement des maladies inflammatoires comme les maladies inflammatoires de l'intestin et l'asthme.

(57) An anti-inflammatory composition is provided. The composition comprises GM₂ activator protein or a peptide derived from the GM₂ activator protein which is capable of inhibiting platelet activating factor (PAF). The composition is useful in the treatment of inflammatory conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease and asthma.



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ABSTRACT

An anti-inflammatory composition is provided. The composition comprises GM₂ activator protein or a peptide derived from the GM₂ activator protein which is capable of inhibiting platelet activating factor (PAF). The composition is useful in the treatment of inflammatory conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease and asthma.

A NOVEL INHIBITOR OF PLATELET ACTIVATING FACTOR

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to anti-inflammatory compositions. More particularly, the present invention relates to an anti-inflammatory composition comprising GM₂ activator protein.

Background of the Invention

Inflammation is generally a protective response triggered by tissue injury or destruction. It is characterized physically by pain, heat, redness, swelling and loss of function, and histologically by a complex series of events which include dilatation of arterioles, leakage in capillaries and venules, exudation of plasma and other fluids, and migration of leukocytes into the inflammatory focus. Although characterized as a protective response, disorders exist in which prolonged or chronic inflammation is undesirable because it causes extreme discomfort as well as extensive tissue damage. Examples of such inflammatory disorders include auto-immune disease, hypersensitivity, rheumatism (such as rheumatoid arthritis), vasculitis, asthma, allergies, rhinitis, gout and tissue-specific conditions such as glomerulonephritis and hepatitis.

Many "anti-inflammatory" drugs exist today which are used to treat the symptoms associated with inflammatory disorders. Treatments including both steroidal and non-steroidal (NSAIDS) drugs are known. Unfortunately, undesirable side effects are commonly encountered with the use of either of these treatments. NSAIDS, such as the salicylates and related compounds, for example, exhibit toxicity, and can cause gastric and intestinal ulceration, disturbances in platelet function and changes in renal function. Steroidal treatments also exhibit toxicity, and have been found to adversely effect infant growth, development and immune response, and cause bone fragility in older patients.

There exists a need, thus, to develop compounds useful to treat inflammation which are non-toxic, present with less severe side effects and which are more efficacious than existing therapies. In this regard, it would be highly desirable to develop an anti-inflammatory derived from a naturally-occurring compound native to the mammalian system.

During the past two decades, studies describing the chemistry and biology of PAF (platelet activating factor) have been extensive. This potent phosphoacylglycerol

exhibits a wide variety of physiological and pathophysiological effects in various cells and tissues. PAF acts, through specific receptors and a variety of signal transduction systems, to elicit diverse biochemical responses (Chao and Olson, Biochemical Journal, 292:617-29, 1993). The role of PAF in the inflammatory response is particularly
5 important. It is believed to promote adhesion of polymorphonuclear leukocytes (PMNs) to the endothelium at a site of inflammation and subsequent migration of PMNs through the endothelial barrier, both of which are crucial steps in an inflammatory response.

PAF, along with cytokines such as the interleukins, tumor necrosis factor and others, appear to be involved in the inflammation that is associated with inflammatory
10 bowel diseases such as Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, ischemic colitis, or antibiotic-associated colitis (Kubes, Canadian Journal of Physiology & Pharmacology, 71:88-97, 1993). PAF is also one of the chemical mediators that may participate in the inflammatory process underlying asthma.

Inhibitors of PAF have been developed as potential therapeutics for the
15 treatment and management of such inflammatory diseases. However, most PAF inhibitors are directed at receptors of PAF rather than PAF itself (Chao and Olson, *supra*; Izumi and Shimizu, Biochimica et Biophysica Acta, 1259:317-33, 1995). Such inhibitors have been found to lack efficacy due to receptor-heterogeneity and, thus, inhibit only a subset of PAF receptors.

20

Summary of the Invention

The GM₂ activator protein, a substrate specific cofactor for the enzyme, lysosomal beta-hexosaminidase A (Hex A), which catalyzes the hydrolysis of GM₂ ganglioside (GM₂), has now been found to inhibit PAF by directly binding thereto.

25 Accordingly, in one aspect of the present invention, there is provided an anti-inflammatory composition comprising GM₂ activator protein, or a GM₂ activator peptide derived therefrom, in combination with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

In another aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treating an inflammatory condition in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal a
30 therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising GM₂ activator protein, or a GM₂ activator peptide derived therefrom, and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

In a further aspect of the present invention, an article of manufacture is provided comprising packaging material and a pharmaceutical composition contained within said packaging material, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is therapeutically effective to reduce inflammation in the body of a mammal, and wherein the packaging material
5 comprises a label which indicates that the composition can be used to reduce inflammation, said composition comprising GM₂ activator protein, or a GM₂ activator peptide derived therefrom, and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Embodiments of the present invention are described in greater detail with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

10

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIGURE 1 is the amino acid sequence of human GM₂ activator protein (SEQ ID NO: 1);

FIGURE 2 is the amino acid sequence of GM₂ activator protein (SEQ ID NO: 2)
15 prepared using the His₆-tag bacterial expression system as described herein;

FIGURE 3 illustrates spectrographic results from a calcium release assay; and

FIGURE 4 illustrates a graph of the results obtained in a fluorescence dequenching assay.

Detailed Description of the Invention

20 An anti-inflammatory composition is provided comprising GM₂ activator protein, or an effective GM₂ activator peptide derived from said protein, in combination with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

The term "anti-inflammatory" is meant to refer to the ability of the GM₂ activator
25 protein to inhibit PAF so as to prevent, or at least reduce, undesired inflammatory response including, but not strictly limited to, responses such as redness, swelling, pain and PMN accumulation at the inflammatory site and other associated cellular responses. Inhibition of PAF is determined by an appropriate assay such as the calcium release assay which is described in detail in the specific examples herein.

30 With reference to GM₂ activator protein, the term "an effective GM₂ activator peptide" is meant to refer to peptides derived, either in whole or in part, from the sequence of the GM₂ activator protein as it is set out in Figure 1, including modified forms

of the GM₂ activator protein as well as truncated peptide forms of the protein. Such peptides must be effective to inhibit PAF as set out above.

The GM₂ activator protein is a heat stable, protease-resistant, monomeric, lysosomal protein of approximately 22kDa. Human GM2 activator protein is synthesized as a precursor polypeptide having 193 amino acid residues, as shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1), of which the first 23 residues represent a signal peptide. The mature protein comprises 162 amino acid residues. It has a single N-linked glycosylated site at the asparagine residue at position 63, and disulfide linkages at each of its 8 cysteine residues.

Effective GM₂ activator peptides derived from the parent GM₂ activator protein will comprise at least a portion of the GM₂ activator protein amino acid sequence, and more notably, the portion of the GM₂ activator protein responsible for inhibiting PAF, and comprising that portion which binds to PAF. The GM₂ activator peptide may be a mutated form of the wild-type GM₂ activator protein in which one or more amino acids are added, deleted, replaced or modified. A GM₂ activator peptide in accordance with the present invention may, for example, be a truncated form of the protein comprising only a region of the carboxy-terminus of the GM₂ activator protein, in whole or in part, including residues in the region from about 80-193, and particularly residues 183 and 185.

It will be appreciated by those of skill in the art that modifications may be made to the GM₂ activator protein or peptides derived therefrom which will not adversely effect their ability to inhibit PAF. Accordingly, additional amino acid residues may be added to the protein which do not alter its activity. For example, protective flanking sequences may be added to the N- or C- terminal ends of the protein or peptide of the present invention in order to prevent degradation thereof that may result from enzymatic, chemical or biochemical attack on administration. Likewise, one or more of the amino acids may be deleted from the protein or peptide, such as a terminal amino acid, without compromising activity.

Alternatively, amino acids native to the protein may be replaced or modified.

Conservative amino acid replacement, e.g. replacement of an amino acid within the protein with an amino acid of similar charge and size such as replacement of threonine with serine, can be effected without loss of activity. Non-conservative amino acid replacements may be tolerated, particularly in regions of the protein which are not crucial

to its inhibition of PAF. Further, amino acids of the present protein or peptide can be modified or derivatized without adverse effect on activity. In this regard, modifications to the termini may be made to protect the protein or peptide from degradation as set out above. Such modifications may include alkylation of either termini with C₁-C₃ branched or
5 unbranched alkyl groups, acylation with acyl groups such as formyl, acetyl, and substituted forms thereof including acetamidomethyl (Acm). Amide-forming amino groups such as primary amines (-NH₂), and mono- and di-alkylamino groups such as methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, methylethylamino and the like are useful to protect to the C-terminus of the protein or peptide. Desamino and descarboxylated
10 analogs of amino acids are also useful to protect the N- and C- termini, respectively, either coupled thereto or used in place of the native terminal amino acid. Internal amino acids of the protein or peptide can also be modified by derivatization without affecting activity. Such derivatizations can be made to the side chains of the amino acids. For example, the side chains can be derivatized by incorporation of protective groups such as those
15 described above.

Another modification that may be incorporated in the GM₂ activator protein or peptides of the present invention is cyclization. Cyclization can be effected between both terminal and internal amino acid residues via disulfide linkages, for example, between two cysteine residues, or via peptide linkages between the amino and carboxyl groups of
20 terminal amino acid residues or of side chains of terminal or internal amino acid residues.

Other modifications can be incorporated into the present protein or peptides without adversely affecting activity, including, but not limited to, substitution of one or more of the amino acids in the natural L-isomeric form with amino acids in the D-isomeric form. Thus, the protein or peptide may include one or more D-amino acid residues, or may
25 comprise amino acids which are all in the D-form.

Acid addition salts of the present compounds are also contemplated. Thus, GM₂ activator protein or peptide may be treated with an inorganic acid such as hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulfuric, nitric, phosphoric, and the like, or an organic acid such as acetic, propionic, glycolic, pyruvic, oxalic, malic, malonic, succinic, maleic, fumaric, tartaric, citric,
30 benzoic, cinnamic, mandelic, methanesulfonic, ethanesulfonic, p-toluenesulfonic, salicylic and the like, to provide a water soluble salt that is suitable for use in the present anti-inflammatory compositions.

The GM₂ activator protein or peptide for use in the present composition may be synthetically-derived using established recombinant methods. Such methods generally entail transformation of a suitable prokaryotic or eukaryotic host cell with a vector having inserted expressibly therein the DNA sequence encoding the GM₂ activator protein.

5 Recombinant GM₂ activator protein may be derived from any suitable prokaryotic source including bacterial sources such as E. coli and B. subtilis, fungal sources such as Aspergillus nidulans and Aspergillus niger and yeast sources. Eukaryotic cell lines may also be employed to produce GM₂ activator protein including insect cell lines such as Spodoptera frugiperda and mammalian cell lines such as Chinese hamster ovary cells
10 (CHO cells) for example of K1 lineage (ATCC CCL 61) including the Pro5 variant (ATCC CRL 1281); fibroblast-like cells derived from SV40-transformed African Green monkey kidney of the CV-1 lineage (ATCC CCL 70), of the COS-1 lineage (ATCC CRL 1650) and of the COS-7 lineage (ATCC CRL 1651); murine L-cells, murine 3T3 cells (ATCC CRL 1658), murine C127 cells, human embryonic kidney cells of the 293 lineage (ATCC CRL
15 1573), human carcinoma cells including HeLa lineage (ATCC CCL 2) and neuroblastoma cells of the lines IMR-32 (ATCC CCL 127), SK-N-MC (ATCC HTB 10) and SK-N-SH (ATCC HTB 11).

As will be appreciated by one of skill in the art, depending on the source, the human GM₂ activator protein may or may not be modified post-translationally, and thus
20 may or may not be glycosylated so as to be in the form in which it naturally exists in humans. Generally, GM₂ activator protein produced from mammalian cell lines is glycosylated, while GM₂ activator protein produced from bacterial sources will be non-glycosylated. Yeast, fungal and insect cell sources of GM₂ activator protein will produce GM₂ activator protein which is at least partially glycosylated. It is noted, however, that
25 glycosylation is not necessary to yield an active GM₂ activator protein or peptide in accordance with the present invention.

Other methods of obtaining GM₂ activator protein or peptide may also be used. For example, GM₂ protein may be isolated from tissue samples using techniques of isolation and purification well-known by those of skill in the art. GM₂ activator protein, and
30 more appropriately peptides derived therefrom, can also be prepared using well-established solid-phase peptide synthesis as described by Stewart et al. in Solid Phase Peptide Synthesis, 2nd Edition, 1984, Pierce Chemical Company, Rockford, Illinois, and as described by Bodanszky and Bodanszky in The Practice of Peptide Synthesis, 1984,

Springer-Verlag, New York. Examples of solid phase peptide synthesis methods include the BOC method which utilizes tert-butoxycarbonyl as the α -amino protecting group, and the Fmoc method which utilizes 9-fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl to protect the α -amino of the amino acid residues, both methods of which are well-known by those of skill in the art.

5 To ensure that the GM₂ activator protein or peptide obtained from either the chemical or biological synthetic techniques described above is the desired protein or peptide, analysis of its composition should be conducted. Such amino acid composition analysis may be conducted using high resolution mass spectrometry to determine the molecular weight of the protein. Alternatively, or additionally, the amino acid content of the
10 protein or peptide can be confirmed by hydrolyzing in aqueous acid, and separating, identifying and quantifying the components of the mixture using HPLC, or an amino acid analyzer. Protein sequencers, which sequentially degrade the protein and identify the amino acids in order, may also be used to determine definitively the sequence of the protein or peptide.

15 Prior to its use to treat inflammation, the GM₂ activator protein or peptide is purified to remove contaminants. In this regard, it will be appreciated that the peptide will be purified so as to meet the standards set out by appropriate regulatory agencies. Any one of a number of conventional purification procedures may be used to attain the required level of purity including, for example, reversed-phase high-pressure liquid chromatography
20 (HPLC) or ion-exchange chromatography.

 According to one aspect of the present invention, anti-inflammatory compositions comprising GM₂ activator protein or an effective GM₂ activator peptide derived therefrom, are prepared for use in treating mammals inflicted with an inflammatory condition or disease. The present composition is particularly suitable for treating inflammatory
25 conditions arising from inflammatory bowel disease, auto-immune disease such as lupus, rhinitis, gout, rheumatism such as rheumatoid arthritis, vasculitis and lung immune disorders such as asthma, allergies, hypersensitivity and infection. The term "mammal" as it is used herein is meant to encompass humans, domestic animals such as cats, dogs and horses, livestock such as cattle, pigs, goats, and sheep, and non-domesticated
30 mammals that may be in need of anti-inflammatory treatment.

 The present anti-inflammatory compositions comprise GM₂ activator protein or peptide together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In this context, the term "pharmaceutically acceptable" means acceptable for use in the pharmaceutical and

terinary arts, i.e. a carrier which is non-toxic and which does not adversely affect the activity of the protein or peptide as an anti-inflammatory agent. Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers useful to prepare compositions for in vivo administration include conventional carriers used in formulating protein-based drugs, such as diluents, excipients and the like. Reference may be made to "Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences", 17th Ed., Mack Publishing Company, Easton, Penn., 1985, for guidance on drug formulations generally. As will be appreciated, the pharmaceutical carriers used to prepare compositions in accordance with the present invention will depend on the administrable form to be used to treat the afflicted mammal.

10 According to one embodiment of the invention, the present composition will be formulated for oral administration. In this regard, the composition may be in liquid or powder form, i.e. freeze-dried, encapsulated or prepared into tablets for sustained-release in the intestine. Other formulations of the present composition are also contemplated. Preparation of the composition into a suppository may also be useful, particularly in the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease, for its delivery directly into the intestine. 15 Alternatively, the present composition may be prepared for use as an aerosol in the treatment of the inflammatory condition of asthma.

 In another aspect of the present invention, a method for treating individuals with an inflammatory disease condition is provided comprising administration of an anti-inflammatory amount of the present composition. In this regard, an "anti-inflammatory amount" is an amount suitable to inhibit PAF, thereby resulting in preventing or at least reducing the occurrence of the inflammatory response in any one or more of its forms as previously set out. Precise dosage sizes of the composition appropriate for treatment are established in appropriately controlled clinical trials, and will correspond to an amount of 20 protein or peptide that reduces inflammation, as determined by the inhibition of PAF, without causing intolerable side effects. It is anticipated that an effective treatment regimen for patients will involve the administration of dosages in the range of 1-100 mg, and more specifically, dosages in the range of 3-30 mg. It will be appreciated, however, that the exact dosage sizes required to attain the desired anti-inflammatory effect will vary 25 with a number of factors including the route and frequency of administration, the inflammatory condition and the with the individual being treated. 30

 For use in treating inflammation in a mammal including a human, the present invention provides, in another of its aspects, a package, in the form of a sterile-filled vial or

ampoule, that contains an anti-inflammatory amount of a GM₂ protein or peptide in accordance with the present invention, in either unit dose or multi-dose amounts, wherein the package incorporates a label instructing use of its contents for treating inflammation. In one embodiment of the invention, the package contains the peptide and the desired
 5 carrier, as an administration-ready formulation, for example, in the form of capsules. Alternatively, and according to another embodiment of the invention, the package provides the anti-inflammatory peptide in a form, such as a lyophilized form, suitable for reconstitution in a suitable carrier, such as phosphate-buffered saline.

Embodiments of the present invention are described by reference to the
 10 following specific examples which are not to be construed as limiting.

Example 1- Preparation of the GM₂ activator protein

The GM₂ activator protein was prepared using the His₆-tag bacterial expression system as described by Smiljanic-Georgijev et al. (Biochim. Biophys. Acta, 1339:192-
 15 202, 1997). A non-glycosylated GM₂ activator protein was expressed from this system having the amino acid sequence set out in Fig. 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2). As can be seen by reference to Fig. 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), the His₆ extension used in this case included the additional residues, -GSIEGR- (SEQ ID NO: 3), which define a Factor X cleavage site, the cleavage site of a blood-clotting enzyme, to allow removal of the His₆ extension, if
 20 necessary. With respect to the purification of the expressed protein, it is noted that the His₆ extension binds Ni²⁺-containing resin (e.g. Ni-NTA). Thus, purification of the protein was readily conducted using such a resin.

A non-functional, truncated form of the activator was also prepared for use as a negative control in the present experiments. This truncated form comprised, in
 25 sequence, the His₆ extension, the Factor X cleavage site, residues 32-157 of the native GM₂ activator protein, and the C-terminal sequence, -WSCPVGSPPGTTA- (SEQ ID NO: 4) as a result of a frameshift.

Example 2 - Calcium Release Assay

30 Neutrophils were isolated from heparinized venous blood collected from healthy volunteers as previously reported (Laneville et al., Biochem. J. 295:393-397, 1993). Neutrophils (1 ml, 10⁷ cells) were loaded with a 3 mM solution of a fluorescent dye, INDO-1 AM (Calbiochem.) for use in calculating [Ca²⁺]_i as previously reported

(Laneuville et al., *supra*; Reynaud and Pace-Asciak, Prostaglandins Leukot. Essent. Fatty Acids 56:9-12,1997). For each measurement, 2×10^6 cells were used in 1 ml of cell medium in a temperature-controlled (37°C) plastic cuvette with continuous stirring. Varying concentrations of functional GM₂ activator protein and non-functional truncated GM₂ activator protein (i.e. 0, 0.32 and 0.8 nmol) were added to individual cuvettes. Following equilibration of the assay mix, PAF (0.002 nmol) was added and the increase in $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ calculated by a determination of fluorescence. Fluorescence was measured using a Perkin-Elmer fluorescence spectrophotometer as previously reported (Reynaud and Pace-Asciak, *supra*).

The results of the calcium release assay are shown in Figure 3. The addition of extracellular functional and non-functional activator protein to a suspension of INDO-1 AM-loaded cells did not result in a change in $[Ca^{2+}]_i$. The addition of 2 pmol of PAF to the cuvette containing 0 nmol of the functional activator increased the $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ by 401 nM. However, addition of PAF to cuvettes containing the functional activator exhibited a significant decrease in the release of intracellular calcium pools into the cytosol. The PAF-response was inhibited by ~75% when 800 pmol (15 µg/ml) of activator was present, but not at all in the presence of 800 pmol of the non-functional truncated activator.

20 Example 3 - Determination of GM₂ Activator Protein Ligand Binding

The ability of the activator protein to bind GM₂ ganglioside, PAF, N-formyl-Met-Leu-Phe (fMLP), or leukotriene B₄ (LTB₄) was assessed using a fluorescence dequenching assay. This assay was first used to evaluate the ability of the activator to transport a self-quenching fluorescence dye, R-18 (octadecylrhodamine conjugated to a saturated C-18 hydrocarbon chain) (obtained from Molecular Probes), between labeled and unlabeled liposomes (phosphatidylcholine containing large unilamellar vesicles, PC-LUV8). An increase in fluorescence over time when the activator protein and unlabeled liposomes were admixed with R-18 labeled liposomes indicates the ability of the activator to transport the R-18 dye, the fluorescence of which is proportional to concentration of dye that is transported to the unlabelled liposomes. The assay was then used to determine the protein's ability to bind various ligands by assessing whether each of the compounds identified above inhibits the transport process (Smiljanic-

Georgijev et al., *supra*). In this aspect of the experiment, each compound was added to a mixture of activator protein and unlabeled liposomes prior to the addition of R-18 labeled liposomes as described above.

The R-18 labeled liposomes were prepared as follows. In a total volume of 0.5 ml of NHE buffer, the PC-LUV₈ (0.44 μ mol) were rapidly and thoroughly mixed at room temperature with 0.04 μ mol of R-18 (20 mM in 100% ethanol). The mixture was then incubated, in an area protected from light, for 15 min. with gentle mixing. Free R-18 was removed by Sephadex G-50 gel filtration on a 1 x 4 cm column. The column was then eluted with NHE buffer to yield a quantity of labeled liposomes sufficient for 10 assays.

In each fluorescence dequenching assay, 5 μ g of activator protein was mixed with 630 nmol of unlabeled liposomes. The assay was initiated by the addition of 44 nmol of R-18 labeled liposomes. The assay mixture was made up to 1 ml with SPM buffer (0.25 M sucrose, 10 mM NaH₂PO₄ buffer, 1 mM MgCl₂, pH 5). The mixture was allowed to incubate at 37 °C for 5 min. to allow the reagents to equilibrate. The rate of increase in fluorescence emission was then determined by monitoring at 590 nm, using an excitation wavelength of 560 nm, on a 650-40 fluorometer (Perkin-Elmer). All assays were conducted in a thermostatted (37 °C) quartz cell. Using this assay, the activator protein was found to transport R-18 between labeled and unlabeled liposomes as determined by an increase in fluorescence over time.

In determining binding of the activator to the ligand compounds identified above, a ligand solution was prepared by dissolving the dried ligand material in chloroform:methanol (2:1) to a concentration of 1.3 nmol in 2 μ l. This was then added to the mixture of unlabeled liposomes and activator. The solution was thoroughly mixed to allow the ligand to distribute itself between the liposomes and/or activator. To controls containing no activator, 2 μ l of chloroform:methanol (2:1) was added. The assay was then conducted as described above by addition of labeled liposomes.

The fluorescence dequenching of the R-18 liposome preparations was measured and calculated as follows. The fluorescence intensity, 5 min. after addition of R-18 PC-LUV₈, was taken as F₀. At the end of the reaction, 60 μ l of 20% v/v Triton X-100 was added to the assay mixture to obtain the fluorescence value at infinite dilution of the probe (F₁₀₀). Fluorescence was taken at any time point (F_i) and dequenching calculated as:

$$\% \text{ R-18 dequenching} = 100 (F_i - F_0) / F_{100}$$

5 The fluorescence dequenching units (F_u) were calculated by subtraction of the baseline percentage of R-18 fluorescence dequenching (obtained from the sample containing all assay components except the activator) from each sample.

Slopes, $[\Delta F_u / \Delta T \text{ (min)}]$, were calculated by subtraction of the baseline slope from the slope of each sample.

10 The results of this experiment illustrate, as shown in Figure 4, that a mixture of activator in the absence of a ligand compound produced a slope of $0.256 \Delta F_u / \Delta T \text{ (min)}$. A similar slope was produced when the activator was admixed with LTB_4 and fMLP. Activator in the presence of PAF produced a lower slope of 0.168, however, while activator in the presence of GM_2 produced a lower slope of 0.060. Thus, GM_2 and PAF were found to inhibit the activator's transfer of R-18 between liposomes. PAF inhibited
15 R-18 transport by 34% while GM_2 inhibited R-18 transport by 77%.

Example 4 - Comparative Experiment

The conventional biological assay for the GM_2 activator involves its function as a substrate specific co-factor for the hydrolysis of GM_2 ganglioside by β -hexosaminidase
20 A. This assay (described in detail in Meier et al., J. Biol. Chem., 266:1879-1887, 1991) requires that the activator has a functional hydrophobic binding site. The fluorescence dequenching assay demonstrates that the same site in the activator binds the hydrophobic R-18 dye, GM_2 ganglioside and PAF. When the activator containing the His_6 -tag (i.e. activator made in bacteria) was compared with the wild-type glycosylated precursor activator form (a form expressed in CHO cells) using this conventional assay,
25 the activator containing the His_6 -tag functioned in a similar manner to the wild-type activator in terms of specific activity.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

(i) APPLICANT:

- (A) NAME: HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN
- (B) STREET: 555 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
- (C) CITY: TORONTO
- (D) STATE: ONTARIO
- (E) COUNTRY: CANADA
- (F) POSTAL CODE (ZIP): M5G 1X8
- (G) TELEPHONE: 416-813-1500

(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: A NOVEL INHIBITOR OF PLATELET ACTIVATING FACTOR

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 4

(iv) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

- (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
- (B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
- (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
- (D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.30 (EPO)

(v) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2,214,843

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 193 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS:
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: Peptide
- (B) LOCATION: -31..0
- (D) OTHER INFORMATION: /note= "Residues 1-23 represent a signal peptide, while residues 24-31 are included in a further precursor form of the protein."

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: Protein
- (B) LOCATION: 1..162

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 1:

Met Gln Ser Leu Met Gln Ala Pro Leu Leu Ile Ala Leu Gly Leu Leu
 -30 -25 -20

Leu Ala Thr Pro Ala Gln Ala His Leu Lys Lys Pro Ser Gln Leu Ser

-15		-10		-5		1									
Ser	Phe	Ser	Trp	Asp	Asn	Cys	Asp	Glu	Gly	Lys	Asp	Pro	Ala	Val	Ile
		5						10					15		
Arg	Ser	Leu	Thr	Leu	Glu	Pro	Asp	Pro	Ile	Val	Val	Pro	Gly	Asn	Val
		20					25					30			
Thr	Leu	Ser	Val	Val	Gly	Ser	Thr	Ser	Val	Pro	Leu	Ser	Ser	Pro	Leu
	35					40					45				
Lys	Val	Asp	Leu	Val	Leu	Glu	Lys	Glu	Val	Ala	Gly	Leu	Trp	Ile	Lys
50					55					60					65
Ile	Pro	Cys	Thr	Asp	Tyr	Ile	Gly	Ser	Cys	Thr	Phe	Glu	His	Phe	Cys
				70					75					80	
Asp	Val	Leu	Asp	Met	Leu	Ile	Pro	Thr	Gly	Glu	Pro	Cys	Pro	Glu	Pro
			85					90					95		
Leu	Arg	Thr	Tyr	Gly	Leu	Pro	Cys	His	Cys	Pro	Phe	Lys	Glu	Gly	Thr
		100					105					110			
Tyr	Ser	Leu	Pro	Lys	Ser	Glu	Phe	Val	Val	Pro	Asp	Leu	Glu	Leu	Pro
	115					120					125				
Ser	Trp	Leu	Thr	Thr	Gly	Asn	Tyr	Arg	Ile	Glu	Ser	Val	Leu	Ser	Ser
130					135					140					145
Ser	Gly	Lys	Arg	Leu	Gly	Cys	Ile	Lys	Ile	Ala	Ala	Ser	Leu	Lys	Gly
				150					155					160	

Ile

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 178 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS:
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: Region
- (B) LOCATION:-16..0
- (D) OTHER INFORMATION:/note= "HIS6-tag"

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: Protein
- (B) LOCATION:1..162

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 2:

Met Arg Gly Ser His His His His His His Gly Ser Ile Glu Gly Arg
 -15 -10 -5
 Ser Ser Phe Ser Trp Asp Asn Cys Asp Glu Gly Lys Asp Pro Ala Val
 1 5 10 15
 Ile Arg Ser Leu Thr Leu Glu Pro Asp Pro Ile Val Val Pro Gly Asn
 20 25 30
 Val Thr Leu Ser Val Val Gly Ser Thr Ser Val Pro Leu Ser Ser Pro
 35 40 45
 Leu Lys Val Asp Leu Val Leu Glu Lys Glu Val Ala Gly Leu Trp Ile
 50 55 60
 Lys Ile Pro Cys Thr Asp Tyr Ile Gly Ser Cys Thr Phe Glu His Phe
 65 70 75 80
 Cys Asp Val Leu Asp Met Leu Ile Pro Thr Gly Glu Pro Cys Pro Glu
 85 90 95
 Pro Leu Arg Thr Tyr Gly Leu Pro Cys His Cys Pro Phe Lys Glu Gly
 100 105 110
 Thr Tyr Ser Leu Pro Lys Ser Glu Phe Val Val Pro Asp Leu Glu Leu
 115 120 125
 Pro Ser Trp Leu Thr Thr Gly Asn Tyr Arg Ile Glu Ser Val Leu Ser
 130 135 140
 Ser Ser Gly Lys Arg Leu Gly Cys Ile Lys Ile Ala Ala Ser Leu Lys
 145 150 155 160
 Gly Ile

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 3:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
- (A) LENGTH: 6 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS:
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 3:

Gly Ser Ile Glu Gly Arg
 1 5

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 4:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 13 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS:
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 4:

Trp	Ser	Cys	Pro	Val	Gly	Ser	Pro	Pro	Gly	Thr	Thr	Ala
1				5					10			

WE CLAIM:

1. An anti-inflammatory composition comprising GM₂ activator protein, or an effective GM₂ activator peptide derived therefrom, in combination with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
2. A composition as defined in claim 1, comprising GM₂ activator protein.
3. A composition as defined in claim 2, wherein said protein comprises the amino acid sequence of residues 32-193 of SEQ. ID NO. 1.
4. A composition as defined in claim 1, comprising an amount of GM₂ activator protein in the range of about 1 - 100 mg.
5. A composition as defined in claim 4, in a sustained release oral dosage form.
6. A composition as defined in claim 4, in the form of an aerosol.
7. A composition as defined in claim 4, in the form of a suppository.
8. A method of treating a mammal inflicted with an inflammatory condition comprising the step of administering to said mammal an anti-inflammatory amount of a composition comprising GM₂ activator protein, or an effective GM₂ activator peptide derived therefrom, in combination with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
9. A method as defined in claim 8, wherein said composition comprises GM₂ activator protein.
10. A method as defined in claim 9, wherein said protein comprises the amino acid sequence of residues 32-193 of SEQ ID NO. 1.
11. A method as defined in claim 8, wherein said anti-inflammatory amount is in the range of 1-100 mg per day.
12. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein said composition is administered orally.
13. An article of manufacture comprising packaging material and an anti-inflammatory composition contained within said packaging material, wherein said composition is therapeutically effective to inhibit PAF in a mammal, and wherein the packaging material comprises a label which indicates that the composition can be used as an anti-inflammatory in a mammal, said composition comprising GM₂ activator protein, or an effective peptide derived therefrom, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. An article of manufacture as defined in claim 13, wherein said composition comprises GM₂ activator protein.

15. An article of manufacture as defined in claim 14, wherein said protein comprises the amino acid sequence of residues 32-193 of SEQ ID NO. 1.

16. An article of manufacture as defined in claim 13, wherein said composition is in the form of an oral dosage form.

FIGURE 1

MQSLMQAPLL	IALGLLLATP	AQAHLKKPSQ	LSSFSDWNCD	40
EGKDPVIRS	LTLEPDPIVV	PGNVTLNVVG	STSVPLSSPL	80
KVDLVLEKEV	AGLWIKIPCT	DYIGSCTFEH	FCDVLDMLIP	120
TGEPCEPLR	TYGLPCHCPF	KEGTYSLPKS	EFVVPDLELP	160
SWLTTGNYRI	ESVLSSSGKR	LGCIKIAASL	KGI	193

FIGURE 2

MRGSHHHHHH	GSIEGRSSFS	WDCDEGKDP	AVIRSLTLEP	40
DPIVVPGNVT	LSVVGSTSV	LSSPLKVDLV	LEKEVAGLWI	80
KIPCTDYIGS	CTFEHFCDVL	DMLIPTGEPC	PEPLRTYGLP	120
CHCPFKEGTY	SLPKSEFVVP	DLELPWLTT	GNRYIESVLS	160
SSGKRLGCIK	IAASLKGI			178

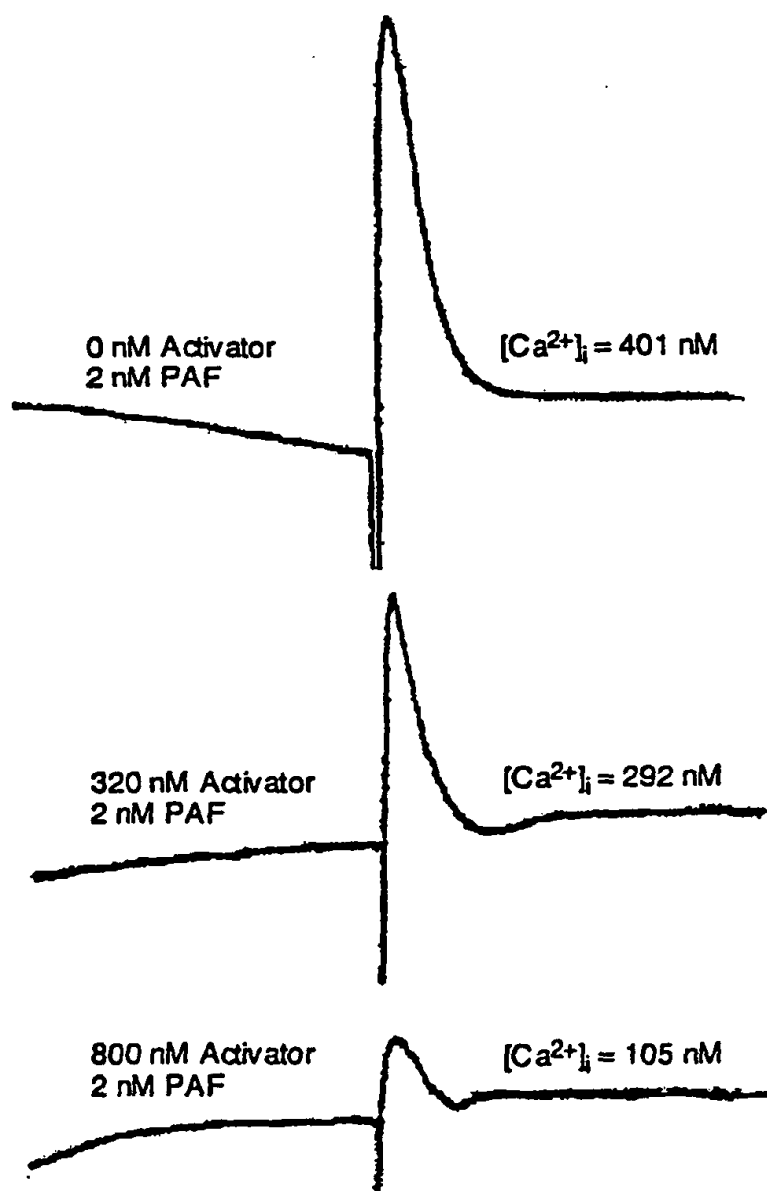
FIGURE 3

FIGURE 4

